

What Happened to Mr. G. C. Tutin

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Tutin are the oldest pioneers living in this neighborhood. George arrived in Harrold, April 17, 1883. At this time there was nothing, but a box car in the town now known as Harrold. The Tutin family settled 3 miles west and 4 miles south of Harrold on the Krull place, and moved on Chapelle creek in 1886. This land was opened to settlement, Feb., 1885. People flocked in by the hundreds. When Pres. Cleveland closed the land to settlement, soldiers were sent out to get them off.

Then came the Indian War threats in 1885. The Sioux tribe succeeded in burning 150 shanties between Rousseau and this neighborhood. There were rumors that Sitting Bull was coming this way. Ammunition was sent to Col. Waite at Blunt to protect the settlers. The old mill at Blunt was to serve as the fort. This was only a scare; Sitting Bull didn't come.

July 4, 1884 marks the date of the first pioneer picnic at R. A. Jackson home. Two days before, a hail storm pounded the corn into the ground. The hail stones were as large as teacups and didn't melt until the next day. Prairie dogs and rattlesnakes were washed out and drowned.

The first Sunday school in Pleasant Valley township was started in 1883 at the home of John Nead. Mrs. R. A. Jackson was the leader. An early minister preached in a little red school house on the Tutin homestead. Rev. W. F. Doty, a Sunday school missionary, came later and preached.

The first school house was built in 1894 east of Giddings. Annie Marso was the teacher. This township was named after Mr. Raber, another old pioneer. Mr. Raber hauled wood to Blunt with oxen and brought back groceries making the trip of 50 miles in 2 days.

There was over two feet of snow on the prairie on May 5, 1883. In 1886 the drought came; only 3 people remained in Pleasant Valley at the end of the summer; Jim Ryan, J. T. Baines and Will Baines. The Chapelle Creek country reopened for settlement about 1890.

A regular steamboat trade went up the Missouri River to Bismarck until the railroad was established in 1880.

There was very little grass on the prairie for several years due to the prairie fires. There were no flies or weeds. Nothing grew in the fields except what was planted. They received a fair price for all they sold. The fire breaks were plowed every six miles to prevent fires. Later they were placed every three miles.

-Contributed.

Charlie West, Our Colored Neighbor

Charles F. West was born in Fayette county, Ohio, but came from Pueblo, Colo., and filed on a homestead near De Grey in 1901. He was without funds but accompanied by his small son Charles, who now oper-

ates a garage at Canning, he managed to persevere and by thrift became an extensive stock raiser, farmer and gardener. His specialty has been alfalfa, melons and potatoes. He owns 322 acres of land, part of it being on the river bottom southeast of De Grey. He never saw such a long period when crops couldn't be raised. Other settlers of that day were Corning, Fowler and Dell Daniels.

Marion Massey's father homesteaded near Black Lake and Charley tells how he found him with a bob sled which had tipped over as he was returning from Canning with roads badly drifted. They re-loaded the coal and finally succeeded in getting it home. Joe Greenwood was another neighbor. One handicap of that day was the scarcity of water; settlers in many cases did not have good wells. Many cattle roamed the prairies.

Mr. West has had the misfortune to have two houses burn down; also his automobile was destroyed by fire.

Michael Nelson Thomson

Mike was born in Denmark in 1857. In 1883 he took up a pre-emption 12 miles north and west of Pierre in Peoria township. He never married. He sold milk in Pierre from 1885 to 1898. He first lived beyond the stockyards near the brickyard and later moved down on the present Tyler ranch. He experienced some hard times then as people often couldn't pay their milk bills. So he returned to his land in the country and ranched for a few years but later returned to Pierre. In 1901 he placed a homestead filing on the SE1/4 32-110-76 which lies west of De Grey. He took out his second naturalization papers in Pierre before H. R. Tarbell, clerk of courts.

An Early De Grey Settler

Ed Hausman came from Lebanon, N. Y. in 1882 with his wife and homesteaded at De Grey. There were 11 children in the family; 8 are still living. They are John, Marie Roda, Carl, Lottie Welch, Eva Eakright, Clyde, Milton and Jake.

Ed barbered in Pierre for many years. In 1914 he lost his arm in a well rig in the Pocket, and soon afterward he died. Mother died in the spring of 1936 and both are buried at Riverside.

-Carl Hausman.

The Greenwoods

Jessie Jones arrived from Wisconsin and filed on the NW 1/4 23-110-76 in the fall of 1905. She established permanent residence here in the spring of 1906 and taught school west of De Grey the following winter. The building had only two windows on the side. She married Joe Greenwood who had come from Oshkosh, Wis. Joe had filed on

SE14 13-110-76. Their home has been on this tract of land for many years, where there is plenty of good water.

A sad accident darkened this home in 1920 when Horace was killed while riding a horse. There was no cemetery in the neighborhood so the Chapelle Cemetery Assn. was formed and a burial ground platted a mile south of Giddings and in its first grave Horace's body was placed. By 1937 there are about 24 graves in the cemetery.

Other Greenwood children are: Lillian, now Mrs. Paul E. Brown, near Arlington; Mary, going to school in Aberdeen; Richard, a Junior in Blunt High School.

Jessie Greenwood has been active in Home Extension work since 1922. Her children have achieved exceptional 4-H Club recognition. Mrs. Greenwood has always assumed a responsible position in Sunday School activity, both at Giddings and Sunnyview. She and her husband have served on the school board a number of terms.

The Coopers Come and Stay

In the fall of 1907 Warren Cooper and family arrived in Hughes county. The children were, Fred, Lawrence, Walter, Ruby (later married Lew Richards; now is deceased).

Lawrence and Walter homesteaded on Dorian Island in the western portion of the Big Bend. This was the family home for 7 years. After proving up the holdings were sold to Henry Peters of Spearfish who accumulated over 800 acres in that locality.

There are some graves on the island and over one of them stands a headstone. It says, according to Walt's memory: "Owen Holland, soldier, died in service." The date he does not remember. There is an inscription of the American flag on the stone, and the belief is that a passing boat gave burial to one of their departed.

The Coopers ranched in Sully county for 4 years and then moved to the Billy Congdon ranch on Chapelle creek; after remaining there for 2 years the F. M. Massey store was purchased by Cooper Bros., who also operated a cattle ranch up the creek from the De Grey store. Mrs. Warren Cooper, the mother, died about 1910 and the father 10 years later. They are buried at Mattoon, Ill. A useful addition was made to the De Grey center in 1931 when the Woodman hall was erected by the local energetic lodge.

The Allemans Among Pioneers

Peter Alleman and wife arrived in local territory in 1882 from near Council Bluffs, Iowa. They came overland with wagons which contained household effects, chickens, etc. Cattle were trailed the long distance. They settled in Peoria bottom. The children of this family were, Pete, rancher 'in the central part of the township; Sam, Peoria bottom rancher; Hattie Graber and George, in Iowa; Mary Bunch, life lost in auto accident; Albert and Will, Haakon Co.; Lawrence, a stockman in western Mentor township. Will is quite a successful rancher near the Carlin bridge across the Cheyenne river. This bridge is named for Douglas Carlin who ranched in early days about 7 miles west of the present bridge. Before the bridge was built the main ford crossing was west of the present site. This bridge was dedicated in 1922 and the cost was \$99,600. Since then a span has been added, making the total cost \$120,000. Will has erected an elegant home just southwest of the bridge at an approximate cost of \$10,000.

Peter Alleman, Sr. died about 20 years ago and his wife about 10 years later. The remains lie in Oahe cemetery about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the Riggs ranch buildings. A number of Indians resided in that vicinity in the early days. In Pierre a confectionery store stood where the J. C. Penny store is now located. Peter Jr. married Jennie Clark at Pierre on Dec. 12, 1896. Their children are, Hugo, Clinton, Herman, Clarence and Ivan. Sam has only one child, Gladys. Lawrence married Stella Bane and their children are, Marjorie, Austin, Harold, Annie and Maxine.

Peter, Sr. and the older boys used to acquire extra money by hauling wood and hay to town and by freighting for Ft. Sully and Ft. Bennett, the latter over the ice in winter.

In 1894 or '95 Lieutenant Callahan's wife was returning from Pierre in an ambulance or coach drawn by 4 mules. He was an officer stationed at Ft. Bennett and as 'it was winter and the ice deemed safe, a crossing was attempted. The whole thing went through the ice and Pete (the son) helped pull them out. The 4 mules were drowned as was also Mrs. Callahan. The driver was never found. Quite a supply of groceries was badly damaged by the accident.

Joseph Pitlick Perseveres

Mr. Pitlick was born in Pilsen, Bohemia, September 16th, 1861. When a lad of five he came to America with his parents. The trip was made on a sailing vessel, requiring 13 weeks to make the journey across the ocean. They arrived in America in August, 1866. His parents immigrated to Iowa City, Iowa, and it was there in 1882 that Mr. and Mrs. Pitlick were married.

Many hardships were endured during their earlier days here. Mr. Pitlick recalls the time he hauled hogs to market for \$1.25 per hundred, oats for 6c a bushel and corn for 10c. He hauled these hogs twenty-five miles in a lumber wagon from Iowa City to Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Pitlick and his family came to Sully County in 1903. He is the father of 10 children, 8 of whom are living. He thought that the land of South Dakota offered better opportunities for a man with a large family. He lived in Sully County until 1910. In 1910 they moved to Pierre. They lived there 2 years, coming to Peoria Bottom in 1912, where they have since resided.

Mr. Pitlick bought a farm known as the Yellowhawk land. On this land stood an old log house, about 40x16 feet. This house was made from hand hewn cottonwood logs and was built by Harney's soldiers eighty years ago. It is supposed to be the oldest log structure in the county. The family lived in this house till 1918, when they moved into a new house built a few rods away from it. Mr. Pitlick, with the help of his son Carl, built a fine set of buildings on this land. A new home was necessary, for the old log house would no longer keep out snakes. This place makes the fifth home that he has established and built up.

In 1907 he shipped his first car load of hogs to Chicago, probably the first car load shipped from Pierre. When he arrived in Chicago with the hogs, he was asked what he fed them, for South Dakota wasn't supposed to be able to produce any feed that would fatten hogs. Since that time he has averaged 2 carloads of hogs every year until two years ago, when he and his son were compelled to quit raising them on account of drought. He has always been an active cattle and hog feeder.

Mr. Pitlick has gone through several drouth periods such as 1911 and 1912. In 1926 hog cholera struck for the first time and caused a loss of \$8000. A few years ago lightning struck and killed 21 head of cattle. In 1932 rye and corn were seven cents a bushel. Now for the past few years he has been passing through this terrible siege of drouth and, hoppers. But he has the nature of a pioneer, for he never complains. One neighbor said of him, "I never saw anyone take as much abuse and punishment with this drouth and hopper plague as Mr. Pitlick has taken and keep such a stiff upper lip."

Cyrus Gain Robinson

Cyrus Gain Robinson, first son of Dr. Gain Robinson and Mary Louise Taylor Robinson, was born April 1, 1850, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and passed peacefully away in his home at Oahe, S.D., Sept. 1, 1933, at the age of eighty-three years and five months. There is only one left of this family of ten; his parents, five brothers and one sister having preceded him in death. One sister, Mrs. Helen R. Baker, of Macomb, Illinois is still living.

March 23, 1885, he was married to Bessie Brisco Burmood in Mt. Sterling, Illinois. Mrs. Robinson died January 1, 1921, and two infant sons died many years ago. Mr. Robinson leaves to mourn his death twin sons, Harvey Philip and Gain Henry Robinson and one daughter, Mary Robinson Pitlick, and their families, all of Oahe, S. D.

While a young man he taught school several terms in Illinois, proved up on a claim in Kansas, was a registered pharmacist, and was

admitted to the bar. But most of his time was spent on a farm in Illinois and the ranch in South Dakota.

Mr. Robinson was among the early settlers of this vicinity, having come with his wife from Illinois in the early eighties. For years Mr. Robinson was connected in the banking business with his brother in the city of Pierre; they owning what was known as the Bank of Pierre, which was one of the first, if not the first, bank in Pierre. While in Pierre he was a member of the Masonic lodge; becoming a Knights Templar. He fell away from the lodge about forty years ago, when the family moved to Oahe, where they have made their home since. After moving to the country Mr. Robinson and his sons did a great deal of freighting of Indian supplies, going overland with teams and wagons to the Cheyenne Agency, where his brother had a store.

Mr. Robinson came of good old Presbyterian Scottish and English stock on one side and the Pilgrim and Pennsylvania Dutch or Quaker stock on the other side. His outstanding traits of character were his quiet, unassuming ways; always thinking of others first, trying to do something to make some one else happy, never complaining, and always keeping his sorrows to himself. To the very last his mind was alert and his body active. His sickness was only of a few days duration. Ever since the death of his wife, he has suffered loneliness, but suffered in silence. So we must think of him as having only left us for awhile to join his wife and two infant sons. We loved him, ah! perhaps too well, but God has taken him home to a well deserved rest; his last wordy being "Gain, Harvey, Mary, where is she?"

-Daily Capital Journal, Pierre, South Dakota-Sept. 20, 1933

Hans Sorensen, a Noted Frontiersman

Hans Sorensen was born in Denmark and later married. He came to this country, and reached this county in 1889. He located north of Blunt in Sully Co. The wife died soon after they became settled, leaving 7 children to the father's care. Those children were: Chris, now manager Ft. Pierre elevator; James, Ft. Pierre; Margaret Moulton, Oahe; Grondina Giddings, Ft. Pierre; Christina, Annie and Martin died previous to 1937.

In 1892 Hans married Maggie Weischedel in Pierre. He was a master of many trades. He was skilled at masonry; construction work; music; shoe repairing; and had an inventive turn of mind. He helped build the pontoon bridge across the Missouri. The children from the second marriage are, Helen Redden, Stanley Co.; Alfred, deceased; Anina Lund, Canada; Walter, Pierre florist; Howard, in Pierre Automotive shop.

Mr. Sorensen moved with his family to Peoria bottom in 1897 as he had secured the old Hump Rib place from Mason P. Martin. Hump Rib was a Sioux chief and we felt quite proud occupying his domicile, to which we later added 2 log rooms.

Hans had managed a brick yard in Denmark and was sure that he could make bricks from the soil near Oahe. In 1903 he began preparations: he built a round vat about 3 feet high and 12 feet across. Between its double walls was a 5 inch space which was filled with earth. Against this on the inside was constructed the "mixer," a box made of heavy planks about 4 ft. square and 5 ft. high. A contraption something like the ladle on the inside of an ice cream freezer did the mixing. Gumbo and sandy soil were the ingredients used. Water was carried to it from the well through a garden hose. A horse was hatched to a long sweep' and the stirring began. Hans stood in a hole and as the mixture came out into a second vate he filled moulds. The green bricks were placed In the sun to dry by 2 carriers. When sufficiently cured they were smoothed up and taken in wheel barrows and placed in long ricks, about 21 feet wide and 3 ft. high, always with air space between. Open sheds protected the bricks from rain but allowed the entrance of sunlight.

When the bricks were thoroughly dry they were placed in the kiln, 20 x 30 ft. by 12 ft., high. This was made from broken and damaged bricks and was plastered up with "mixture" on the outside so that the heat would not escape. Three archways had been constructed with openings reaching up to a top opening; in these fires were built and kept going for 3 days. At the last firing the fuel doors were mudded shut; causing the fires to die away slowly. At the end of 10 days the kiln would be opened and the harvest of reddish brick, perfect except for the ones directly over the arches, greeted the enthusiastic workers.

A steamboat, the Scotty Philip, took the first kiln' of bricks to Pierre. Mr. Sorensen used the second kiln product to build an 8 room home. Running water was supplied by the windmill; thus we had one of the first "modern's rural homes in this area. The first kiln of bricks paid for the lumber and hardware in the new home.

Father died in 1911.

-Helen Redden, a daughter.

Among the Teton Dakotas

Thomas L. Riggs

In 1840, Stephen Riggs preached his first sermon in Dakota Territory, not far from Fort Pierre monument, where he hoped to establish a mission. The roving Dakota Indians, however, did not make it possible to establish a permanent settlement.

Thirty-two years after his father's visit to Dakota, Thomas L. Riggs, the second son, began a log cabin mission house called Hope Station. Of the experiences of these early days, Mr. Riggs wrote: "Beginning our mission among the Teton Sioux involved much hard work and real danger. In the woods with an axe, rafting on the muddy and turbulent Missouri, lifting and fitting the green cottonwood logs to place in the station building-all is fresh and vivid even to the soreness and pain in

the hands and back. I could get no help at that time-the summer of 1872. No white man would hire to work unprotected among Indians here, and hence with the help of an occasional Indian, a younger brother and I worked on Hope Station. We lived as the natives lived, on bacon, greasy bread and black coffee. An Indian woman, the helper's wife, cooked for us. After the burning heat of the day we slept on the ground with our rifles under our blankets beside us. Often we were awakened at dawn and saluted during the day by the near report of a rifle, the ping of the ball overhead showing that it was the gun of some Indian to scare us, and grim fun it was. Two men were killed at the agency; a few miles away a messenger was shot dead; and at Fort Sully on the opposite side of the river, that haven of safety as we regarded it, an officer was shot in the head and severely wounded within sight of the Fort.

"We worked on the house week days and on the Sabbath, services were held long before I could talk Dakota other than in a lame way. The attendance was fitful and uncertain-now a full house and then but one or two dirty children. Then, as they would not come to us, I went to them. Into their dirty houses or smoky tents I took the A B C book and in this way gathered them in."

Later two new missions were established, one on the west side of the Missouri, the other east of the river at Peoria Bottom. The latter site was known as Oahe where the historic Chapel still stands and where Mr. Riggs still makes his home. The mission was discontinued in 1913.

Mr. Riggs has been one of the devoted Christian missionaries of early western South Dakota. His work among the Indians is a lasting memorial to his heroic effort. His labors affected the lives of many men and women among the Indians of the west river country.

The work of our Christian missionaries is one of our inheritances to be continued and passed on to the next generation, a suggestion for "My Heritage and the Future-A Trust." -Young Citizen, 1933.

Fielder Bottom Pioneers

Joseph Ihli came to Fielder bottom in the late fall of 1884 from Stevenson Co., Illinois and was joined by his wife later in the fall. His father Xavier and family also came to that location and lived on part of what is now the Fred Ebert place. The Joseph Ihli family after living 20 years at Fielder, moved to East Pierre where they have since resided. Xavier died in 1897 and his wife in 1906; both were buried in Calvary Cemetery north of Pierre. Their children were: Magdalena, who married Fred Ebert; Louise became Mrs. Bert Benton, Pierre; John who died in Pierre in 1922; Wendel died in Idaho; and Joseph mentioned above. This son engaged in farming, stock raising and teaching school until he was appointed deputy county auditor in 1905. He served rather continuously in the Court House until 1925 when he did field work with the state hail insurance department; he was later Pierre city assessor for 7 years.

He says that by the latter part of 1884 all the lands in this part of value had been filed on. Population then far exceeded that of today. In the first Peoria election he attended, 66 votes were cast; these were by men because women could not vote; now that township has less than 66 voters, both men and women. This would hold true for all parts of the county outside of Pierre.

One was impressed with the fact that educated men and women who had settled on land seemingly lived in contentment in small sod houses and shacks of every description. In those days it did not require the glare that people in modern days seem to seek.

In those days the Black Hills stage and the bull trains were still making their regular trips from Pierre to the Hills. Soldiers were a common sight on the streets of Pierre as at that time both Ft. Sully and Ft. Bennett were located up on the river; the former being 23 miles from Pierre and the latter 30 miles. These posts received their supplies by steamboat on the Missouri. While the 11th Infantry, U. S. A., was stationed here, Fiorello La Guardia, father of the present Mayor of New York, was chief musician of the 11th Regimental band at Ft. Sully, Fiorello, who was then a very small boy, is now quite a national figure.

In the literary society in the Fielder community were a lawyer, a former superintendent and others who had formerly held responsible positions. Mr. Ihli was secretary. Wilbur Rudy, who had married a squaw, was called upon at one of the programs and gave a splendid talk on the history of education. This surprised his listeners who little suspected his ability and training. He later had difficulty with the Indians who insisted on following an old trail across land which lie had fenced and he later kited an Indian who insisted on trespassing. He was acquitted before Judge J. F. Hughes.

J. C. Aeger was county commissioner; others were Billy Wells of the Wells House, and J. F. Hughes, and John Gould of Canning. They started to improve the Court House grounds about 40 years ago and they were put in about their present condition by 1907. Quite a draw ran east of the old Court House and this of course was filled in.

Roads were nil-trails ran everywhere. Early settlers had the spirit to divide with others.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ebert have been married 41 years and most of their activity has consisted of ranching, farming and raising alfalfa in Fielder bottom and across the river in Stanley county. Their children are: James, Joe, Lena (Mrs. Harry Meyer), Hayward, Calif.; Gertrude (Mrs. Harry Amos), Pierre.

Louise Ihli married Bert Benton in the Gus Bergen hotel in Ft. Sully in 1892. Chaplain Barry performed the ceremony. Their children are Ethel (Mrs. Hi Davis); Belle Ashcroft, Long Beach, Calif. (her husband is a high school athletic director); Donald, auto welding, Pierre; Louise, (Mrs. Ed Michaelson, Pierre); Frankie, Riverside, Calif.; Clara, Rockford, Illinois.

-An interview with Joseph Ihli, Sr.

Early Fielder History

By John Millett

My father, George J. Millett, Jr., and his father, George, arrived here in time to help move old Ft. Sully up the river 25 miles to the new location in 1870. My father was born in Crawford Co., 131, in 1847. He served in the Civil war in Co. C 45th Wis. infantry. My father's family moved from Yankton here in a covered wagon in 1880 and located on what was then Okobojo island. This land has now been joined to the mainland and at present is owned by Pearl Telford.

My brothers and sisters were: Effie; Lucy A.; George F.; Emma A.; Clara B.; Alice R.; Fanny M.; and 3 boys who died in infancy. My father was the first sheriff of Sully Co., and my grandfather one of the first commissioners of that county. It was found by survey later that the land we occupied was really in Hughes and not Sully Co. My father married Carrie A. Brooks in Sioux City in 1872. He and my grandfather had done considerable river freighting up from Sioux City to Ft. Sully, Ft. Bennett, and Ft. Yates. Father and Jim Webb later had a wood and hay contract with Ft. Sully.

Clifton was the first seat of government in Sully Co. and I remember one stormy day father was called there. He went on horse back and wore mother's knitted hood. He also wore a coat my mother had made from tanned wild cat pelts.

Ft. Sully's pay roll came to Blunt and was taken from there overland. On one trip an officer from the Fort and a half breed stopped at Okobojo creek to cook dinner as they were carrying the payoff to the Fort. When the officer's back was turned the breed hit him with a hatchet and killed him. The robber was apprehended at Harrold the next day aboard a train going east. The funds were recovered but the Indian was later hanged in Nebraska.

My father resided on the home place for 40 years. He died Aug. 15, 1913 and mother passed away in 1932. A Frenchman by the name of Claymore and a darky by the name of Kackley died about 1881 and my father and others buried them up from the mouth of Spring creek. A young Indian boy was also buried some distance from them. Their graves can still be seen.

My father and grandfather bought the telegraph line between Ft. Sully and Ft. Yates in 1889 when the latter place was abandoned. We took down the line and rafted the material down stream to our place.

Some of my early teachers were, Sarah Dake, Harry Van Tress, Maggie King and Mrs. Sherwood. Geo. Moseley was once the blacksmith at Ft. Bennett. Steve Moseley ran a saloon near the present F. N. Putnam place. John McClure was another early settler who lived about where Matt Moseley lives now. Bill Fielder was one of the best known frontiersmen in that locality. His parents had been killed in the New Ulm massacre when he was quite young. He was raised by Indians and was of Scotch descent. He was wed to an Indian

woman and they established the Fielder post office. He was quite a character and usually carried, plenty of money. He was also inclined to consume liquor and was often up to something unusual. As an example, my father had an old Oliver mower which could be used only with difficulty. He mashed it up one night and then gave father money to get a new one. He later moved up northwest of Forest City and finally was killed by Indian police who had gone out to bring him in on a charge. Allen, a son, is employed at Cheyenne Agency.

There was a butcher ranch up above the mouth of Okobojo creek. Beef was killed twice a week. It was used by whoever had the beef contract. Some who had it were Bob Tompkins, Chas. and Joe Bunch, Bill Floyd (father of Alden). Andy Forsythe came from Ireland and settled up "the river from us. Three children he left in Ireland were brought over here 12 years later by John Hackett, a cousin_ John still spends most of his time near the Forsythe location.

I married Icapine Bunch on Jan. 30, 1908. She was the daughter of Col. E. P. Bunch, a Civil war veteran. She was a schoolma'am and started the first library in the county. A pie social was held during the term of 1897-98 and the proceeds went to buy library books, which were used both by the school and community.

My parents are buried at Oahe cemetery.

John Sutherland, D. W. March and C. H. Anderson can tell much about early happenings. All have been closely allied with the development of the city and county. Their memories are trained in accuracy and many are the incidents which one can listen to without tiring. We regret that we cannot provide space for contributions along with several others. Supt. R. E. Rawlins is preparing quite an extensive compilation on the history of the Pierre schools and we regret that it was not completed in time so that we might be able to use at least a summary from it.-B. L. H.

Who Is Older Than John McGrin?

John McGrin, of Dry Run, was born in County Claire, Ireland, in 1841, which makes him 96 in 1937. He came to this county from Hartington, Nebraska in 1910. His wife died in 1916. She was Margaret Kearney and married John at Dennison, Iowa in 1874. Their children are James, in Nebraska; Joseph in Washington, D. C.; Belle and Mary reside in the state; Ellen McDonald keeps house for her father and brother, J. P. Ellen's daughter, Margaret, is Mrs. Tom Mathews in Pierre. She has 4 children, so 4 generations are here represented.

The writer enjoyed his visit with this centenarian very much. Although age has impaired vision and hearing to some extent, the spirit of friendship, cordiality and outlook on life is still young-B. L. H.

The Biwer Family

George Biwer and wife came to this locality on March 1, 1882, and homesteaded in Dry Run Township, 35-111-78. There are 7 children in the family, and some member of the family has lived on the place continuously since the date of filing. The children are, Kate Thorne, Capa; John, Pierre; Mike, Pierre; Pete, lives on the original homestead; Theresa Chaussee, Pierre; Katherine Bruce, Pierre. John, Theresa, and Nick are deceased.

George had a brother Nick who lived here for some time. George passed away in 1906 and was preceded in death 4 years by his wife. Peter and family lived for some years in Deuel Co., but returned here in 1933 and live on the home place in Dry Run. He also ranched a few years near Capa, going there in 1891. May Walsh became his bride in 1897.

A South Dakota Prairie Fire

(Editor's note: We are indebted to Mr. C. E. Westover for this weeks 'copy' for our See-Back-A-Graph. The following is taken from a theme written by a relative of Mr. Westover in 1889, it being part of a high school assignment of the writer.)

Perhaps there are not many people left in Hughes county who remember the fearful prairie-fire that roared and sizzled its way across that region on the second day of April, 1889. I have experienced many prairie fires, but that was the most serious within my recollection. The loss of property and live stock was wide spread and caused untold hardships among the people.

That spring of 1889 was an unusually early one, and there had been almost no rain. By the first of April the winter snow had long vanished and the grass and weeds were dry as tinder. In this year I was living in Blunt with my father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos S. Westover, in a small house across the street from the old Presbyterian church. On the morning of the second of April the wind was blowing a gale terrific even for South Dakota. The air was so filled with fine dust that often, looking out our windows, we could not see the church across the street. Toward four o'clock in the afternoon a heavy darkness as of night settled down over us, and looking northward, we saw black clouds rolling over the bluffs. At first they were thought to be dust, but stepping outside we smelled the smoke and realized that a prairie fire, fierce, and moving like the wind, was almost upon us. Soon we saw the flames leaping high into the black smoke. Fortunately the main fire passed a little to the east of us, just beyond the first range of hills; otherwise, so furious was its pace, that nothing could have prevented it from going through the town and burning everything.

All the men and boys in town, on foot, horseback, or with teams rushed out to meet the oncoming fire. There, with backfires and all other means known to these experienced men of the plains, they fought

long and valiantly to protect their homes. The terrified women and children ran to and fro, scarcely aware of what they were doing. Some of the women actually took their furniture and clothes and stacked them a short distance from their homes, no doubt thinking if the house burned the goods would be safe.

My sister Minnie and I worked frantically at the pump in the yard, trying to get enough water to wet the grass around the house and so save it in case the fire jumped the guards on the outskirts of town. But the wind was so strong that it blew most of the water away before it reached the pail, and we were drenched. At least, we were too wet to burn! We talked it over and decided that if the fire did come we would roll ourselves in wet blankets, lie down in the middle of the garden, and cover our heads until it had passed. For half an hour we waited, expecting to see the flames burst upon us at any moment. Finally a man drove up to the house for water and told us the danger was over.

All night the wind was like a hurricane. Watchmen were placed at various points to see that the fire did not revive in spots and send sparks inside the guard. Women whose husbands were on watch were afraid to stay alone, and I remember I was sent to stay with a Mrs. Butler whose husband had a hardware store. I hope I was a comfort and a "pillar of strength" to her, though I certainly didn't feel that way.

The next morning the wind had subsided and only the blackened prairies, stretching out in all directions, told the story of the excitement and horror of the day before. People began coming in from the surrounding country; many of them had lost houses, barns, and stock, and had it been fall instead of early spring, the outlook would have been discouraging indeed. When the news reached the east, people gave generously to help the "Dakota sufferers." Committees were formed to receive and distribute the goods that were sent. As is often the case, those who deserved the most often got the least. Some families were so well fitted out with clothes that they were better off than they had ever been before. Farmers who had never worn anything excepting overalls and denim shirts and jackets created much amusement by appearing in town dressed in swallow-tailed coats and stiff hats. One man is said to have received seventeen suits of clothes.

A prairie fire is a beautiful sight when seen at a distance on a still night from the top of some high butte, but it is a different sight when it is coming straight toward your home driven by a terrific gale. It leaves an imprint on one's memory that is not soon effaced.

-Calls Westover Lloyd-Jones.

Clearwater

(Written by Philomena Hoefer from information told her by
Mrs. E. F. Mercer)

A Mr. Price, who built the building which is now the poor farm,. planned and started the town of Clearwater on the present site of the

poor farm, about four miles east of Blunt. Because he did not build it up enough and would not give land to the railroad, his town did not grow into more than a water tank and siding. The rival town started on land owned by a man named Blunt and became the big town, Blunt. However, the water tank stood for many years at Clearwater where the engines stopped to take on water.

Mrs. Snell's Early Adventures in Hughes Co.

It was in the spring of 1884 when I had my first glimpse of Hughes County. At the age of six my parents brought me here in a covered wagon, drawn by a team of oxen. We were two weeks coming from Howard to Harrold.

When we reached Harrold we pitched our tents and prepared supper. We took the cloth cover off the wagon and slept in it. When winter came we lived in a dugout with a sod roof. Many a night I have helped my folks twist hay for fuel.

In our spare time my sister and I would go out and pick up buffalo horns, and my grandmother would clean them, make them into pin cushions, and send them to our relatives in Iowa.

My father would plow land for a living. He would plow for the neighbors. The oxen would not stay in the furrow, so my sister and I barefoot, led the oxen.

In the winter of 1888 on January 12, a great blizzard swept through Hughes County. My sister, mother, and I were staying in a small house about a mile from the school house, so that my sister and I could attend school. It was about 8 o'clock in the morning when it started to snow and blow. We had but one chunk of coal in the house, so we took the quilts off the two beds, put them all on one bed, then we all went to bed to keep from freezing to death, expecting any minute that the house would blow down; but it stood the awful wind.

Then in the year 1889 a great fire swept through. It burned many homes and people, but we saw it coming in time and father plowed a fire guard around the farm, and our place escaped the disaster.

-Bertha Thorne

Another Early Family

I came to S. Dak. in April, 1886, worked in the range country until June, 1892, when I came to Hughes county with a horse outfit, selling horses.

Settled in Bretton township in October, 1893, In those days when we went to the county seat we generally drove a team, taking several days to make the trip.

Taxes were *very low*. We rented the place we lived on for the taxes which was about twenty-five dollars for three quarter sections. We cut hay where we could find it, depending on how far from the water the stock would go.

Our teacher received thirty to thirty-five dollars per month for a term of six months.

Money could be borrowed at the bank for twelve percent interest, on stock. On land it was hard to obtain-twelve percent interest, with one year's interest taken out when you received the money.

We bought articles cheaper in those days. We bought a five foot Deering mower in Harrold from Tom Leach Hardware for twenty-four dollars..

The winter of 1896 and '97 was extra long and snow was deep. We had to buy large quantities of feed, but it looks now like it was cheap. Mixed bran and shorts, car lots at seven dollars and a quarter per ton in Harrold. Ground corn eleven dollars per ton. Shelled corn twenty-six cents per bushel-all shipped in.

Stockmen figured growth of steers at ten dollars per year and generally kept them till three or four years old. A great many sold by the head.

Sheep were about four dollars per head in 1892 but took a bad slump the next year and did not recover for several years. "I know, I tried it." Horses were plentiful and easy to obtain. Livery barns were about as numerous in this town as oil stations are now and had plenty of business.

-J. C. Higgins.

June 1889 we arrived in Blunt, S. D., to remain till October. We spent that summer on South Chapelle creek, a mile from the junction of north and south forks. Neighbors were few and far between.

The work of getting hay for winter feed was not an easy task. There was lack of moisture and hay was obtained from dry lake beds 8 or 10 miles away, making a long haul. The mowers cut part of the day, then the hay was raked and loaded in racks to take home. The native grass cured quickly, so each day's trip with a team meant a load of hay on returning.

In 1890 we filed and settled on a claim at the junction of North and South Chapelle, where we operated a cattle and horse ranch for a number of years.

Our nearest post office was De Grey about two miles down the creek. "Hank" Jones, Postmaster for many years, was a prominent character in the history, settlement and activities along the Missouri river in that locality.

Indians stopped at our place frequently, often pitching their tepees near and remaining a day or two on their journeys to or from the Indian Agency or where their wanderings took them.

During all our experiences with our Indian neighbors there was never any evidence of hostility, even at the time of the trouble of the Messiah War and the killing of Sitting Bull.

After selling our ranch we lived in Blunt a few years operating the Westover livery barn. With but one train a day traveling salesmen were

forced to hire livery rigs to take them to surrounding towns in order to save time.

The winter of 1896 and '97 was severe, beginning October 27th and continuing till late March and early April, when the deep snow melted, raising Medicine creek almost to the point of flooding the town.

The following summer was very dry.

In 1899 we moved to Bretton township. In 1900 an outbreak of anthrax caused severe loss to cattle raisers in this locality. For a few years new settlers came in and farming was done on a larger scale, flax being planted on new breaking. About this time steam tractors came into use in farming and later gas tractors were used to break up the country and it has been "broke" ever since.

The depression, grasshoppers and drouth of the years 1929 to 1937 have resulted in a greater percentage of the people being now on relief.

-(Mrs.) Etta B. (Westover) Higgins.

Philip Pietrus and wife came to this county in 1894 and soon leased the place 7 miles northeast of Pierre where Mrs. Pietrus and son George still reside. After renting for a while they bought the place and now have 6 deeded quarters of excellent land. Philip died in 1911. Both were born in Germany. Their marriage took place at Minnesota Lake, Minn. Mrs. Pietrus was formerly Pauline Roadkiewka. The children are Hattie Hengel, Pierre; Bertha, Mitchell; Ann Hit, St. Peter, Minn.; George and Charley, Hughes county ranchers.

Andrew Peterson came from Sweeden and landed in Hughes county in 1883, settling on a homestead 17 miles northeast of Pierre. His wife and daughter, Alma, did not arrive until 1898. Mr. Peterson later sold out to Mrs. Eliza Hickey. He died May 29, 1926 and rests in Riverside cemetery. The mother still lives in Austin, Texas.

Ole Westland's parents came here in 1882. His father was Magnus Westlund. He died in 1911 and his wife died in March, 1931. Ole and Alma Peterson were wed March 18, 1906 and resided in Byron township. They have two children, Ruth Jacobs and Edith Davis. Other children of Magnus,-Selma Brown, Pete, Ida Smith, Ben, John, Magnus, Albert, and Ernest.

Life of a Pioneer Family

In 1882 Clark Howard came to South Dakota and filed on a homestead in the northwestern part of Hughes county. After arranging business matters satisfactorily, this pioneer returned to his native state, Iowa, and in the early part of the summer of 1883 he came back with his family to his new home in the Middle West.

After traveling some days in an old-fashioned train, these people arrived at the would-be-town of Blunt. Their few properties were gathered into wagons to be taken to the country. The first meal was enjoyed in the open. A cookstove and a table had been unloaded from one wagon and dinner was prepared.

Mr. Howard at once built a kind of house-barn for temporary use. It was 64 feet long and was partitioned into two parts. The cattle, horses, and a very few other animals had possession of one-half of this building, while the children and parents lived in the other half. The two daughters and one of the sons prepared some of the land to plant some late grain while the father started to build a house. The children used a one-horse walking plow and a very crude seeder to sow the grain. A great deal of sugar cane was planted and when harvest came this was ground up and the juice was made into molasses. Some of this was sold and some was kept for home use.

Before winter came the house was almost completed. There was no window glass in the windows and no shingles on the roof, but the floor of the upstairs served as a roof for the floor below. What a proud family moved into this "place."

Most of the water had to be hauled from Blunt in barrels; very few people were fortunate enough to have wells on their claims. One day the only barrel of water was spilled and Mr. Howard went to his neighbor's padlocked well to borrow one pail of water. The neighbor kindly but firmly told the newcomer he would not lend any water. Many barrels of water had to be kept on hand in case a prairie fire should start.

New buildings were built on the "farm," but only those that were absolutely necessary. Mr. Howard planted many trees around his place to improve its appearance. A few of these trees are still alive and have grown very large.

Other interesting events were experienced by this pioneer and his family. The old homestead has now been greatly improved. The old house has been remodeled and other buildings have been built. Some tools and an old cellarhole of the blacksmith shop remain to tell of one occupation of the old pioneer.

-Harriet Miles.

Early Hughes County Pioneer Answers Call

Another of Hughes county's pioneers answered the call of time when Lorenze Osterkamp, 71, passed away at the home of his son Albert at Bruno, Minnesota, Tuesday evening. The deceased, a resident of this section for 50 years, went to Muscatine, Iowa, during the month of May this year to seek medical aid from an illness of many years standing, and for the past several months had made his home at Bruno.

Lorenze Osterkamp was born near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on January 20, 1865, coming to South Dakota during the settlement of the central part of the state in 1884 at which time he was 20 years of age. He homesteaded on a farm in Sully county, northwest of Blunt where he resided until retiring to a small farm at the western border of Blunt in 1910. At the age of 28 he entered matrimony with Miss Fena Mundt and the young people toiled under the existing conditions and hardships of early South Dakota pioneer life. Five children came to bless the home of this

union and were reared under the guiding hand and strict regulations of the father.

Lorenze Osterkamp is survived by five children-four sons, Albert of Bruno, Minnesota; Carl, John and Harry, of Blunt; one daughter, Tessie, of Blunt; two sisters Mrs. Mary Garner of Aptos, California; Mrs. Lizzie Snow of Anoka, Minnesota. He was preceeded in death by his wife a number of years ago.-Blunt Advocate, September, 1936.

Mrs. Sarah Fillmore Enters Eternal Sleep

Remorse entered the hearts of the entire community today as news came that Mrs. Sarah Fillmore, one of Blunt's grand old women, had passed away. Few people have been afforded the high esteem of the community as was this pioneer of early South Dakota history.

Sarah Fillmore had reached the ripe old age of 80 years when she succumbed to her eternal sleep but possessed a keen and brilliant mental capacity until a few days before death came. She was at all times interested in affairs concerning the betterment of the community. She also was keenly and earnestly interested in promotion of religious advancement and was always in close communion with her Heavenly Father and her faith was a sacred institute.

The deceased came to Blunt with her husband with a group of early immigrants and resided for a number of years on a farm near Blunt. Since the death of Mr. Fillmore some fifteen years ago, she has made her home at the James A. Howard home. Mrs. Howard, a daughter, preceded her in death a number of years ago. Since the passing of James Howard, Mrs. Fillmore made her home with Richard Howard, a grandson.-Blunt Advocate, Sept., 1936.

Mrs. Walter Hunsley Will Be Missed

Friends and acquaintances of Mrs. Walter Hunsley, formerly Jessie Chamberlain, were sorry to hear this spring (1937) of her death. Although she had been a sufferer for sometime with a cancerous condition, she was able until nearly the time of her death to be about. Her appearance and general behavior did not alarm those with whom she came in contact as she was not prone to complain.

Mrs. Hunsley served as a school treasurer for a number of years in Byron district. She never lost interest in education and community affairs. Only two years ago she represented the Sunnyside P. T. A. as a delegate at the state convention at Rapid City.

She was born and reared in Clifton township, Sully county. She is survived by three manly sons, Maurice, Clement and Lyle. Her husband still continues to reside on the ranch near Blunt, where the family has lived many years.-March, 1937.

Trask-Babel Past

In 1894 Lorenzo Trask left West Plains, Mo., in a prairie schooner and reached Blunt the same year. With him were 4 sons; Albert, Art, Sherman and Walter. Mrs. Trask and two smaller Sons came by train by way of Renwick, Iowa. Howard was one of these. Lorenzo made a home in Blunt which was occupied by the family until a cyclone destroyed it in 1915.

He worked with W. W. Waite in the implement business; he also did considerable farming. He also ran a furniture store and did an undertaking business. Mr. Trask died in 1926 and his wife preceded him to the promised land in 1911. They rest in the Renwick cemetery. Lorenzo was in service in the Civil War for 4 years, and was 84 at the time of his death.

He was under Sherman when the military leader was a colonel. Trask's company won highest honors at Vicksburg by planting the Union colors on the spot where they would do the most good. 63% of the company were killed. Only two sons are alive at present; Albert of Aberdeen and Howard, of Pierre. The latter wed Genevieve Babel in 1917.

G. C. Babel and family arrived in Blunt in 1908. Although the family lived in town, Mr. Babel was an extensive farmer in the surrounding community. He owned the Blunt Light Plant for 10 years or until it was sold to the Northern States Power Co. He died in 1929. They had only one child, Genevieve, who is now Mrs. Howard Trask of Pierre. Her mother lives with them. The Trasks and Babels jointly owned a high-wheeled International auto;; they needed to as it took several to run it .
-Mrs. Howard Trask.

Letter From Mrs. Alvord

3928 Huntington Street, July 11, 1934, Chevy Chase, D. C.
My dear Mr. (Gus) Kleinschmidt:

Your letter came as a great surprise and it was certainly nice of you to remember me by writing. It is many years since I heard from anyone who knew me at Blunt.

We see Charles H. Burke occasionally, though not often.

My brother Arthur died in September, 1932 in Ava, Missouri. He came to Washington the year before that and spent the winter with us, but at that time he was very feeble and did not live long. My brother Ed is in Fargo and we expected him to meet us this summer but illness prevented the trip at that time.

The photo shows that you have a nice looking family; I am glad the mother was spared until the children were old enough to look out for you and themselves.

Mr. Alvord and I have been blessed with good health and we think we have a fine family too. My son is a lawyer in partnership with his father. We have one daughter married living in Washington and another who works in New York.

Neither Mr. Alvord nor myself are "White as a rabbit" though there

are some streaks of gray visible. He looks about 60 yet he is 74. He goes to work every day and enjoys it. I am too busy to think about my age, just past 70. I am active in church and Sunday School and lots of other things.

I believe Jennie Stone is the only one of her family living. Isn't May Cowan married? Do you know anything about Alice, Bob or Harry Hall?

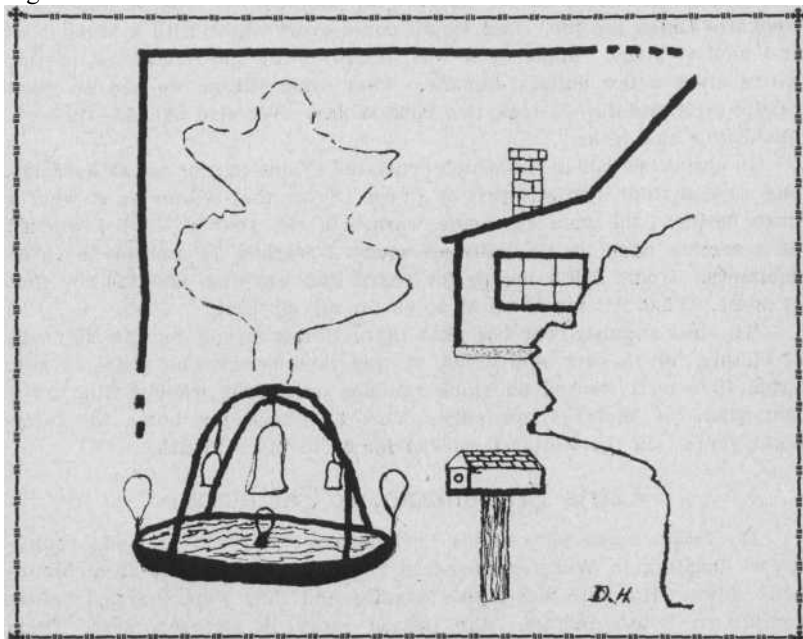
I often think of my days in Blunt; it was a great experience. Mr. Alvord and I are taking a trip to England this summer leaving New York the 28th to be gone a month.

Sincerest regards to you and former friends,

-Mrs. E.C.Alvord.

Note: E. J. Moore, Grand Recorder, A. O. U. W., Fargo,, is a brother of Mrs. Alvord. Bob Hall she speaks about is State Game Warden at Mobridge. Edward E. Graham, 515 North Marian St., Mt. Pulaski, Ill., was a schoolmate in the early 80's of Mrs. Alvord and the undersigned at Blunt.

-Gus Kleinschmidt.



The above drawing made by David Hall shows a bird bath and swings in the yard at the Frank A. House home in Blunt. Mr. and Mrs. House also have provided a number of bird houses in trees and under the eaves of the commodious home. A feeding shelter is near the bath. Many varieties of bird friends have learned to visit and make their seasonal homes here. This shows a commendable interest on the part of this hospitable couple. They have spent many years and invested considerable money within the borders of the county.